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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/501,168	02/09/2000	Stephen William Davics	2-6	3484

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DOCKET ADMINISTRATOR
LUCENT TECHNOLOGIES INC.
ROOM 2F-190
600 MOUNTAIN AVENUE
MURRAY HILL, NJ 07974-0636

EXAMINER

APPIAH, CHARLES NANA

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2617

DATE MAILED: 12/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/501,168

Applicant(s)

DAVIES ET AL.

Examiner

Charles N. Appiah

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-17 and 19-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 17 and 19-22 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 10-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 10-15 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 10, 11, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ala-Laurila et al. (6,587,680).

Regarding claim 10, Ala-Laurila discloses a method for performing handoffs in a network for providing wireless communication service having at least first (AP old), and second wireless base stations (AP new), and at least one wireless terminal (MT), the method comprising the steps of: transmitting a request, from the wireless terminal for handoff between the first base station and the second base station (see steps 501, 502, col. 10, lines 38-43), receiving a response to the request at the wireless terminal, when the second base station knows the first base station prior to receiving the request, the response indicating that the second base station can engage in expedited handoffs with the first base station (see col. 10, lines 44-49), connecting the wireless terminal for user

traffic to the second base station (see col. 11, lines 19-23), wherein the expedited handoff employs information about the wireless terminal transferred from the first base station to the second base station (see col. 11, lines 41-48).

Regarding claim 11, Ala-Laurila further discloses wherein the information is security information (see col. 9, lines 60-64, col. 11, lines 41-48).

Regarding claim 14, Ala-Laurila further discloses wherein the information is security information and includes at least one of from the set consisting of (i) password, (ii) challenge response pair, and (iii) a challenge-response cipher key tuple (see col. 5, lines 43-50, col. 9, line 65 to col. 10, line 9, col. 11, lines 9-17).

Regarding claim 15, Ala-Laurila further discloses wherein the information is security information that is received over a network for inter-base station communication (see col. 5, lines 26-36).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

5. Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ala-Laurila et al as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of La Porta et al. (6,434,134).

Regarding claim 12, Ala-Laurila fails to explicitly teach where in the information is received from a security center and the information is received from a base station other than the first or second base stations.

In an analogous field of endeavor, La Porta discloses a system for allowing wireless devices to access packet based networks using dynamic address assignment wherein a mobile user connected to a base station can change its point of attachment from one network or subnet to another (see col. 4, lines 33-49). According to La Porta when an instant handoff path is setup message is sent, and a mobile device is handed off to a new base station, authentication information is transferred from the user's old base station to the new base station and that a mechanism such as HLR authentication or the RADIUS protocol authentication mechanism can be used (see col. 32, line 58 to col. 33, line 12).

It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine La Porta's authentication procedure with Ala-Laurila's system in order to ensure that arbitrary users are disallowed from sending unauthorized path setup messages as taught by La Porta.

6. Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ala-Laurila et al et al as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Haartsen (5,598,459).

Regarding claim 13, Ala-Laurila further discloses authentication (security) information is transferred from the user's old base station to the new base station (see Fig. 2), but fails to explicitly teach that the security information is received from a base station other than the first or second base station.

In an analogous field of endeavor, Haartsen discloses a method in which during a handover of a cellular terminal from a wide area cellular network to a base station,

authentication (security) information is provided through another terminal (see abstract, Fig. 3A).

It would therefore have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide for the provision and transfer of authentication information from a different terminal for handoffs in the system of Ala-Laurila in order to preserve the provision of secure communication without adding unnecessary overhead and charges as taught by Haartsen.

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 1-2, 4-8, 17,19-22 are allowed.
8. Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion


9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Norefors et al. (6,370,380) discloses a method for secure handover in a wireless communications network.
Cheng et al. (6,418,130) discloses the re-use of security associations for improving handover performance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Charles N. Appiah whose telephone number is 571 272-7904. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha Banks-Harold can be reached on 571-272-7905. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

CA


CHARLES APPIAH
PRIMARY EXAMINER